

The illustration depicts a cave interior with a large pile of treasure in the center. The treasure includes gold coins, silver pieces, and various gemstones. A small figure of a person is visible near the base of the pile. A trail of small, light-colored stones or pebbles leads from the bottom left towards the treasure. The cave walls are a light blue color, and the floor is a darker blue. The overall style is whimsical and colorful.

# Ivan's Treasure

*and other stories*

by Marc A. Donis  
illustrations by Minka Donis

## *Introduction*

In order to sleep, Minka sometimes needs a Papa story. But in order to invent a story, Papa needs some things to get him started. Minka provides her attention and three items, and Papa does his best to weave these into a bedtime story, with varied success. The stories in this book are just a tiny subset of the dozens of tales told, including:

Whale, Giant Squid, and Giraffes  
Psychologist, Fawn, and Fairy Statue  
Tortoise, Monkeys, and Bananas  
Rabbit, Carrot, and Radish  
Piggy Bank, Doll, and Engine  
Rabbit, Fox, and Hunter  
Magic Book found at the back of the shelf  
Minkabelle's Complicated Superpower  
The Ongoing Saga of 1000 Bears  
The Various Adventures of Fuzzywees in Space

These stories were told by Papa and illustrated by Minka. Thanks to Mama for her artistic support, and to GIMP for making this all possible.





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One hot summer afternoon in late July, Ivan had decided to explore a deep part of the Vast Forest where no one ever goes. After several hours of walking, he came upon an opening in the earth. This hole was deep and filled with a bottomless darkness. Ivan threw a stick into the hole and listened carefully to know its depth, but he heard no sound.

Determined to find what lay at the bottom, Ivan tied a sturdy rope to a tree near the opening, and down he went. The light from above shrank to a dim point as he descended deeper into the darkness, and the air became cold. When he finally hit the bottom, he found that it was made of something hard and cold. Ivan had brought a box of matches with him into the woods, in case he needed to light a fire. When he looked inside, he saw that there were only four matches. He struck one to see where he was.

When Ivan saw where he was standing, he nearly fainted from the shock. He was not on the ground, but on top of a pile of gold coins. He began filling his pockets with the heavy treasure. Just before the match started to burn his fingers, he saw that there was a dark opening in one side of the wall. Now he could no longer see, but he could feel cold air coming from this tunnel. "Where there is wind, there is a way out," thought Ivan. "I came here to explore, that is what I shall do." He set off into the darkness.

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 The End

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